

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-18 remain in this application.

Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sudia et al. (USPN 6,209,091). Examiner asserts that Sudia discloses a general communication transmission method that enables a transmitted message to span synchronous and asynchronous protocols over a computer network during one transmission. Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that Sudia anticipates the invention disclosed in Applicants' present application.

Applicants' present invention allows multiple stops in a complete transmission and retains the history and integrity of the stops, as well as any modifications made by the stop point along the way. This invention allows any number of entities to participate in the sealed transaction, wherein each entity can add to the transaction, the complete transaction is protected from unintended recipients, and authentication and integrity is ensured with each entity. During the transmission, an entity may receive the transmitted message. The entity may add information or modify information in the message. The changes would be recorded in a data structure called a SignedData object. Each new entity that receives the message during the transmission may add a SignedData object to the transmitted. Through the SignedData objects, at the end of the transmission, there is a complete record of the events that occurred during the transmission of that message. In this method, the authenticity and integrity of the transaction is preserved.

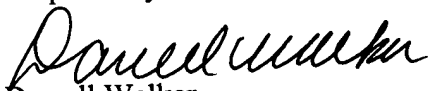
Sudia describes a multi-step signing system and method that uses multiple signing devices to affix a single signature, which can be verified using a single public verification key. Each signing device possesses a share of the signature key and affixes a partial signature in response to authorization from a plurality of authorizing agents. In a serial embodiment, after a first partial signature has been affixed, a second signing device exponentiates the first partial signature. Sudia does not describe or mention that ability to record the history of a transmission that is described in the present invention.

Applicants have amended the claims to include the record of the events that occur during the transmission of a message. In addition, the present invention tracks the events that occur during a message transmission. Sudia uses multiple signing devices to create a single signature for access to a message. Applicants assert that the objectives of the Sudia and the present invention are different. Applicants further assert that the techniques for accomplishing these objectives are materially different as well. The locations in Sudia that are cited by the Examiner do not describe the contents of Applicants' present invention.

Applicants have amended the claims in this application to further clarify the present invention and distinguish the present invention from the cited reference in the office letter mailed July 27, 2004. Applicants believe this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that the amendments in this response include subject matter contained in the application as filed and that no new matter has been added by this response. The amendments address rejections raised by the Examiner. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The stated reply date to the Office letter mailed on July 27, 2004 was October 27, 2004. However, under 17 CFR 1.7, this date fell on a Saturday and the first succeeding day after that date is November 29, 2004. Therefore Applicants submit that this response filed on November 29, 2004 is filed within the one-month extension. No new fees are believed to be due. However, if any such fees are due, please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 09-4447 (Reference Number ASU920000851US1).

Respectfully Submitted,



Darcell Walker
Reg. No. 34,945
9301 Southwest Freeway, Suite 250
Houston, Texas 77074
713-772-1255
November 29, 2004